

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
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GREG WALDEN, OREGON  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

October 27, 2020

The Honorable Robert Adler  
Acting Chairman  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Acting Chairman Adler:

We write to you regarding products entering the U.S. from China that may be the result of the human rights abuses being perpetrated against Uighur Muslims, particularly products made with Uighur women's hair. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) must act to assure the American people that it is taking appropriate steps to address it.

Over 1 million Uighurs have been interned in more than 85 detention camps by the Chinese government, and it continues to expand such camps in an effort to suppress even more Uighurs.<sup>1</sup> Chinese officials long denied the existence of these camps, but since images of their construction have emerged, the Chinese government has labeled them as "re-education camps."<sup>2</sup> But, members of the Muslim minority say these "camps" are something far more sinister. In fact, Uighurs say they have been detained, interrogated, and beaten exclusively because of their religion<sup>3</sup> and reports indicate Uighurs are also subject to "torture, cruel and inhumane treatment such as physical and sexual abuse, forced labor, and death."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/features/uighurs/>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/02/us/china-hair-uyghur-cpb-trnd/index.html>

The Chinese government is reportedly shaving Uighur women to use their hair for products that are shipped to the U.S.<sup>5</sup> In July, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized a 13-ton shipment of beauty products suspected to have been made out of human hair likely from the Uighur Muslims internment camps in Xinjiang, China.<sup>6</sup> Speaking on China's treatment of Uighur Muslims, U.S. National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien recently stated that "[i]f not a genocide, something close to it going on in Xinjiang"<sup>7</sup> and that "[t]he Chinese are literally shaving the heads of Uighur women and making hair products and sending them to the United States."<sup>8</sup>

The Chinese government's human rights abuses and inhumane practices against Uighur Muslims cannot be tolerated by the rest of the World. We all must speak out in defense of Uighur Muslims and denounce China's vicious behavior. Please provide written answers to the following questions regarding the CPSC's mission and these inhumane practices no later than Nov 10, 2020:

1. Is the CPSC aware that the Chinese government is shaving Uighur women so that their hair can be used for products that are shipped into the U.S.?
2. What products is the CPSC aware of that are originating from the Xinjiang region?
3. Given the human rights abuses occurring in the Xinjiang region, does the CPSC require any additional steps or increased scrutiny for shipments coming from such region? If yes, please explain.
4. Given the human rights abuses occurring in the Xinjiang region, does the CPSC coordinate with the CBP or any other federal entity to inspect shipments coming from such region? If yes, please detail such coordination.
5. Is the CPSC aware of any shipments of products containing Uighur women's hair arriving from locations other than the Xinjiang region? If yes, please identify these products and from where these products originate.
6. Is the CPSC aware of any products currently in the U.S. market that contain Uighur women's hair?
  - a. If yes, please identify these products and from where these products originate.
  - b. If yes, please identify the outlets (retailers, e-commerce sites, etc.) that are selling such products.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-xinjiang/something-close-to-genocide-in-chinas-xinjiang-says-u-s-security-adviser-idUSKBN2712HH>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/02/us/china-hair-uyghur-cpb-trnd/index.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-xinjiang/something-close-to-genocide-in-chinas-xinjiang-says-u-s-security-adviser-idUSKBN2712HH>

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Kurth and Bijan Koohmaraie at (202) 225-3641. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Walden".

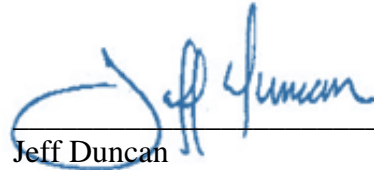
Greg Walden  
Republican Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers".

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter".

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Duncan".

Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress